LIBRARY

Bromyard Urban District

HEREFORDSHIRE

LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1945

Adams & Sons (Printers) Ltd., Hereford. 53380

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
Acting Medical Officer of Health ... (Deputy County Medical Officer)	I. F. MACKENZIE, M.D. (Edin)., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (Private Tel., Weobley 59)
Clerk	B. J. SCANDRETT (On War Service from 1939)
Temporary Clerk	MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT
Sanitary Inspector (Part-time)	J. D. BARRS, M.Inst.M.Cy.Engs., C.S.I.

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster (Tel., Leom. 95).

To the Chairman and Members of Bromyard Urban Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS,

I present herewith the Annual report for the year, 1945.

At time of writing, your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. H. F. GREEN, has happily returned from service with H.M. Forces and resumed duty.

The arrangements which were made on the eve of his departure in 1942 were designed to provide a means for emergency action in the event of outbreaks of disease ; and also to enable the really essential day to day duties of your health department to be carried on by medical officers experienced in public health, without reducing further the then serious shortage of medical manpower. Events have demonstrated that this scheme, which was conceived under difficult circumstances, was sound ; and though more responsibility fell on your Sanitary Inspector, he, being conscious that he had the support and backing of the considerable resources of the County Council Public Health Department and of the Medical Research Council's Laboratory service, shouldered it the more happily. Gratitude is due to him for his creditable response to the additional calls made on him during these last four years.

I. F. MACKENZIE,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1946.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)	213
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to the Rate Books ...	472
Rateable Value	£8,929
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£34 17 6

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR :

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	14.3
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still births)	0.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	11.2
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	43.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes : No deaths in 1945 were attributable to puerperal or maternal causes.

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1945 :

Live Birth Rate	16.1
Death Rate	11.4
Infantile Mortality Rate	46.0

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is at present under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS.

There are no Clinics provided by the Authority. Under a County Council Scheme a Child Welfare Clinic is held on alternate Thursdays, at 2 p.m., in Frome Bank, Bromyard.

The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at the County Hospital, Hereford.

I am indebted to Mr. J. D. Barrs for the following statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The whole of the district is supplied and also eleven houses and four farms in the Rural District. Altogether some 500 houses and numerous business premises are supplied.

The supply which is chlorinated was generally adequate for all purposes throughout the year. The yield from the 6 wells varied from 50,000 gallons to 100,000 and upwards daily.

The rate of consumption per head daily was about 27 gallons.

Four samples of the water were taken for analysis and found to be satisfactory.

SEWERAGE.

Owing to the continuance of war-time conditions, the proposed sewage disposal scheme formulated in 1937 remained in abeyance, and the sewage was discharged at 3 outfalls in a crude condition as in previous years.

The principal outfall is at " Forburries " where some 40,000 gallons of sewage flow into the River Frome. Fortunately the level of the river was not lowered by drought conditions as in 1944, and consequently the sewage was diluted and rendered less noxious to nearby householders.

The pipe sewers in the town were examined every month and they were generally found in a satisfactory condition and remarkably free from odour.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Except for the matter of pollution described under the previous heading, there was nothing calling for comment.

HOUSE REFUSE.

The collection of house refuse was taken over by a motor lorry contractor, and the speedy removal thereby was a great improvement on the old horse-drawn trolley method. The dustbins are now emptied and cleared off the street footways early in the day.

DEMOLITION OF COTTAGES UNDER HOUSING ACT OF 1935.

Two old cottages in the Old Road, scheduled as Slum Clearance area No. 5, have been demolished to ground level in accordance with a notice served under the above Act.

CONVERSION OF PAIL OR PIT CLOSETS INTO W.C.S.

There are some 30 houses in the town with either pail or pit closets and this number represent 6% of the occupied houses. The Council are desirous for W.C.s to be substituted in place of the insanitary pail closets, the emptying of which is very objectionable to women tenants. Owners have been directed to carry out the proposed conversion as soon as circumstances, such as labour and material, will permit.

HOUSING SCHEME.

The Council approved of a scheme for the erection of 26 houses on the Ballhurst Estate Site and a tender has been accepted for carrying out the work including the making of roads and the construction of drains.

	No. of Inspections	*Informal Notices*	*Statutory Notices*	*Complied with*
Housing Act, 1936	11	—	—	—
Public Health Act, 1936 ...	42	8	—	2
Dairies	12	—	—	—
Bakehouses	30	—	—	—
Butcher's Shops	30	—	—	—
Factories and Workshops ...	12	—	—	—
Water Supplies	4	—	—	—
Infectious Disease	96	—	—	—
Complaints	23	11	—	14

DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Drains cleared	12	New W.C. Pans	0
Drains repaired	4	Flushing Cisterns provided	0
New Drains	4		

FACTORIES.

With Mechanical Power—No. of Inspections 5

CAMPING SITES.

There are no registered sites in the area.

BED BUGS.

No reports of bed bug infestation were received.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts 41
   (*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 55
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... Nil

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

There are no milk producers in the Urban District. Inspection of the Dairies in town is carried out regularly and samples are taken when necessary. Most of the Milk retailed in town is sampled outside the district.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No cases of diseased meat were noted, all meat having been thoroughly inspected at the Hereford Abattoir.

Transport and handling of the meat was satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

Six premises were registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

The following foods were examined, found unsound and destroyed.

Cheese	6 lbs. ...	Mould
Bacon	13 lbs. ...	Decomposition
Tinned Fish	48 tins ...	Blown
,, Vegetables	54 tins ...	,,
,, Milk	5 tins ...	,,
,, Meat	26 tins ...	,,
Butter	148 lbs. ...	Mould
Cake	120 lbs. ...	Damage by disinfectant

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1945 there was an outbreak of Measles which affected some 86 persons who were mainly, as is usual, in the 1 to 9 age group. There were 3 instances of Scarlet Fever. No cases of Diphtheria occurred.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE.

Disease.	*Age of Patient.*														
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	*Over* 40	*Unknown*	*Total*
Measles	—	2	9	12	12	13	12	20	1	2	—	—	—	3	86
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	4
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	4

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The state of Immunisation of the child population of the district at the end if 1945 is indicated in the table below.

Under 5 *years of age.*		*Between* 5 *and* 15 *years of age.*	
Number.	*Percentage of group.*	*Number.*	*Percentage of group.*
100	72.9%	255	99.9%

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1945 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 2 males and 6 females who normally reside within the district. During the year 1 new case was notified on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. During the same period one death from this disease occurred.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages).

Disease.	*Male.*	*Female.*	*Total.*
Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Cancer (all forms)	1	4	5
Heart and Blood Vessels	3	5	8
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	1	—	1
Diseases of Digestive System	—	1	1
Congenital Conditions	—	1	1
Nephritis	—	1	1